administrations. It was decided that this Fund would be maintained through a 7.5% increase accepted by Industrialised Countries (ICs) on the payments made to postal administrations of Developing Countries (DCs) for handling and delivery charges of total mail sent by ICs to DCs. The fund is administered by a nine member Board of Trustees (BOT), of the member administrations of the Universal Postal Union. The BOT approves funds to be given to creditor administrations (DCs) of the QSF on the basis of project proposal submitted by the administrations for improvement in the quality of service. These projects needs to be linked to one of the following six areas:—

access to services,
speed and reliability,
security,
liability and handling of inquiries,
customer satisfaction or design
implementation of cost accounting system.

India, being one of the developing countries, is a beneficiary of the QSF. One project has been implemented so far. Under this project, the 4 Airmail Offices of Exchange at Delhi (Delhi), Kolkata (West Bengal), Chennai (Tamil Nadu) and Mumbai (Maharashtra) have been computerized.

Providing of Telephone Connections in Gautam Budh Nagar

†3742. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for making declaration of slashing or hiking fixed monthly rent rate by General Managers throughout the country and giving explanations for its implementation;

(b) the reasons for making declaration by the General Manager, Gautam Budh Nagar Telephone Exchange on 29-01-03 for charging monthly rent of Rs. 110/- and recovery of last two months alongwith reasons for hiking the same without any prior notice;

(c) the details of the principle basis for rural and urban evaluation and classification throughout India; and

(d) the reasons for not providing connections within scheduled time limit in Delta Exchange under Gautam Budh Nagar?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, the main reasons for making declaration of slashing or hiking fixed monthly rent rate are:

(i) Rural/Urban classification as per Census Report 2001.

(ii) Enhancement of exchange system capacity.

(iii) Introduction of different Tariff-Plans.

(b) The declaration by General Manager, Noida was with regard to the criteria adopted for fixing rural and urban tariff based on Census Report 2001. However, in individual cases of any wrong charging, detected subsequently, necessary adjustments are done in subsequent bills.

(c) Census Report 2001 is taken as basis for classifications of the subscribers for the purpose of telephone traffic uniformly throughout the Country.

(d) The service area of Delta Exchange in Gautam Budh Nagar is new developing area and is technically non-feasible at present on wired line (on account of non-availability of underground cable pair) as well as on WLL system [on account of shortage of fixed wireless terminals (FWT's].

Black Marketing of BSNL Sim Cards

†3743. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that black marketing of BSNL sim cards is going on in several States and sim cards could not be provided to the subscribers as per their requirements;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by Government to check the black marketing of sim cards and also to provide sim cards to the subscribers as per their requirements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some complaints of black marketing of SIM Cards were received in the past from the State of U.P., Bihar, Jharkhand and Rajasthan by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). The release of SIM Cards has been temporarily controlled in some States due to capacity constraints.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.